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ACT: POL-2 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSUL PESHAWAR  
140/SECRETARY 10400 214  
115 115/115 115/115 ISLAMABAD 679  
116 116/116 116/116 LAHORE 474  
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SUMMARY: IN NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE, PESHAWAR  
POPULATION HAS REACTED TO DAUD COUP ALONG PREDICTABLE  
LINES. THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH BRUTAL REGIME TEND VIEW  
COUP WITH UNCLERED AND DISAPPROVAL; THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH  
NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY PRIVATELY EXPRESS BELIEF THAT  
PUNJABIAN ISSUE CAN NOW BE EXPLOITED AGAINST  
DAUD GOVERNMENT. TRIBALS REPUTED TO SEE COUP AS  
GOOD PROSPECT FOR LARGER FINANCIAL SUBSIDIES FROM  
INDIA AND ISLAMABAD. WIDELY BELIEVED SOVIETS INVOLVED  
IN COUP. END SUMMARY.

1. OPINION IN PESHAWAR HAS DIVIDED ALONG FAIRLY  
PREDICTABLE LINES IN ITS REACTION TO THE RECENT COUP  
IN PAKISTAN. MOST OF THOSE CONTACTED BY THE CON-  
SULATE WHO ARE NOT AFFILIATED WITH OR SYMPATHETIC TO EITHER  
BETWEEN THE NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY OR THE JAMIATUL-UL-UL-  
ISLAM OPPOSITION GROUPS VIEW DAUD'S RETURN TO POWER  
WITH VARYING DEGREES OF DISAPPROVAL, SUSPICION AND CON-  
CERN. THEY TEND TO BE OF THE OPINION THAT DAUD, WITH  
LINKS ASSISTS FROM THE SOVIET UNION AND INDIA, WILL  
ATTEMPT TO REACTIVATE THE PUNJABIAN ISSUE IN AN  
EFFORT TO WEAKEN PAKISTAN AND POSSIBLE EVEN TO BRING  
ABOUT ITS FURTHER DISMEMBERMENT.

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2. WHILE FEW OBSERVERS OF THE AFGHAN SCENE IN PESHAWAR WOULD CLAIM TO HAVE ANY EVIDENCE THAT THE SOVIET UNION ACTIVELY ASSISTED DAUD IN HIS RETURN TO POWER, MANY ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT IT AS ALMOST AN ARTICLE OF FAITH THAT THE SOVIETS HAD A SIGNIFICANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE COUP. THERE IS ALSO A COMMONLY HELD BELIEF, PARTICULARLY PREVALENT IN MILITARY CIRCLES, THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE AN INTERESTED INTEREST IN PROMOTING THE CAUSE OF PAKISTAN AS DO THE AFGHANS. ONE SENIOR MILITARY OFFICER CONFIDENTLY PREDICTED TO THE CONSULATE THAT THE SOVIETS WILL NOW PROCEED TO UTILIZE THE ISSUE IN A DETERMINED EFFORT TO GAIN A FOCHOLD ON THE ARABIAN SEA.

3. IN THEIR GROUP OF OPINION MAKERS, COMPOSED LARGELY OF LEADERS AND SUPPORTERS, AND PRESUMABLY MANY OF THEM AFFILIATED WITH THE JUI, HAVE REACTED SOMEWHAT DIFFERENTLY TO THE DEVELOPMENTS IN KABUL. WHILE THEIR PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE COUP HAVE TENDED TO BE NON-COMMITTAL AND VAGUE, NAW LEADERS IN THEIR PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS HAVE INDICATED THEY ARE NOT UNHAPPY TO SEE DAUD BACK IN POWER. WHILE THE IMPRESSION HAS BEEN GAINED THAT DAUD AND HIS ASSOCIATES BELIEVE THAT A REVIVAL OF THE PUKHTOONISTAN QUESTION WILL REDOUND TO THE BENEFIT OF THE NAW IN ITS STRUGGLE WITH PRESIDENT SHUTTO, NAW OBSERVERS HERE, BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE PARTY, BELIEVE THAT MEMBERS OF ALL FACTIONS WITHIN THE NAW, MODERATES AND MILITANTS ALIKE, SEE THE PUKHTOONISTAN ISSUE AS A WEAPON WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR USE AGAINST SHUTTO IF THE PRESIDENT CONTINUES TO REFUSE TO MAKE CONCESSIONS TO THE NAW ON THE WHOLE RANGE OF ISSUES WHICH PRESENTLY DIVIDE THEM. ACCORDING TO THESE OBSERVERS, HOWEVER, THE LARGE MODERATE FACTION AND THE SMALLER MILITANT GROUP WITHIN THE NAW HAVE DIFFERING VIEWS AS TO HOW THE PUKHTOONISTAN WEAPON SHOULD BE USED BY THE PARTY. WHILE THE FORMER SEE IT MERELY AS A STICK WHICH CAN BE USED TO TRY TO OBTAIN CONCESSIONS FROM PRESIDENT SHUTTO, THE LATTER REPORTEDLY ARE AWAITING THE DAY WHEN IT CAN BE USED AS A HEAVY CLUB TO INVITE GOVERNMENT REPRESSION AND FORCE A FINAL SHOWDOWN WITH THE PRESIDENT.

4. IN THE PERIOD SINCE THE AFGHAN COUP, VERY LITTLE HAS BEEN HEARD IN PESHAWAR ABOUT WHAT PEOPLE IN THE TRIBAL AREAS THINK ABOUT THE RETURN OF DAUD TO POWER. HOWEVER, ALL THOSE OFFICIALS AND OTHERS WHO CLAIM TO KNOW SOMETHING OF TRIBAL ATTITUDES ARE UNANIMOUS IN CONTENDING THAT THE TRIBALS ARE DELIGHTED WITH THE PROSPECT OF DAUD AGAIN PUSHING THE CAUSE OF PUKHTOONISTAN BECAUSE THEY ARE CONFIDENT IT WILL LEAD TO

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SEVERAL TO KNOW SOMETHING OF TRIBAL ATTITUDES ARE UNANIMOUS  
IN CONCLUDING THAT THE TRIBALS ARE DELIGHTED WITH THE  
PROSPECT OF DAUD AGAIN PUSHING THE CAUSE OF PUKHTOONISTA  
BECAUSE THEY ARE CONFIDENT IT WILL LEAD TO AN  
INCREASE IN THE FLOW OF MONEY TO THE TRIBAL AGENCIES  
FROM KABUL AND ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUBSIDIES FROM  
ISLAMABAD.

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